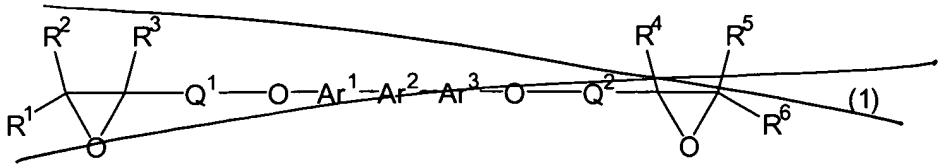
Amendments to the Claims

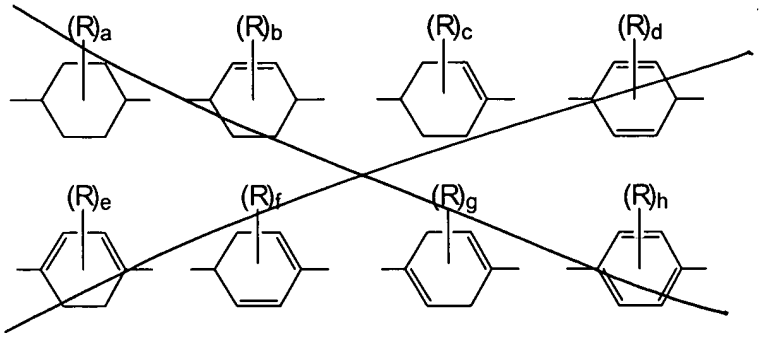
1. (Currently amended) An epoxy compound represented by the ~~formula (1):~~



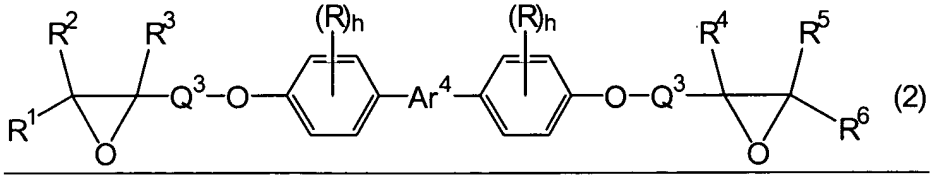
(1)

~~wherein~~

~~Ar^1, Ar^2 and Ar^3 are the same or different and each denotes any one of divalent groups represented by the following formulas:~~



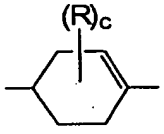
formula (2):



(2)

wherein

Ar^4 denotes a divalent group represented by the following formula:



in which R denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, ~~a denotes an integer of 1 to 8, b, e and g denote an integer of 1 to 6,~~ c denotes an integer of 1 to 7, ~~d and h~~

~~denote~~ h denotes an integer of 1 to 4, and ~~f denotes an integer of 1 to 5, and~~ when more than one R exists in said divalent group, all of R may be the same group or different groups;

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

~~Q^1 and Q^2 are the same or different and each denotes a straight-chain alkylene group of 1 to 9 carbon atoms, in which methylene groups composing the straight-chain alkylene group are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms and -O- or -N(R^7)- is optionally inserted between the methylene groups, in which R^7 denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms~~ Q^3 denotes any one of groups represented by the following formulas:

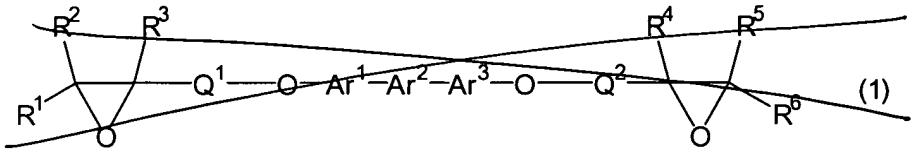
$-(CH_2)_m-$ $-(CH_2)_p-O-(CH_2)_q-$

in which m denotes an integer of 1 to 9, p and q denote an integer of 1 to 8, and the sum of p and q is 9 or less, and methylene groups composing the group represented by Q^3 are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms.

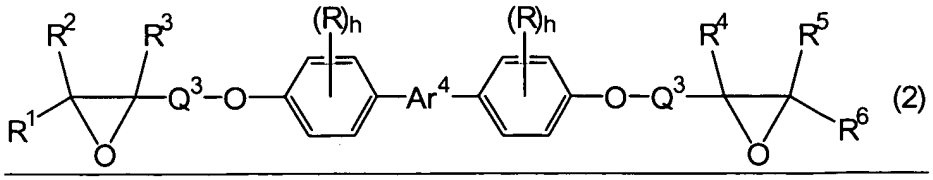
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The epoxy compound according to ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen atoms.

4. (Currently amended) A method for producing an epoxy compound represented by the following ~~formula (1):~~

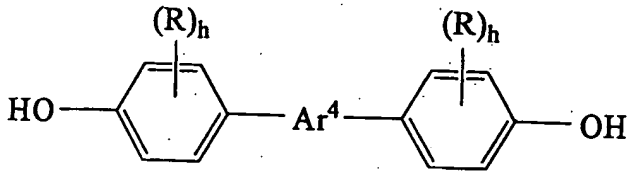


formula (2):



wherein ~~Ar^1, Ar^2, Ar^3~~ Ar^4, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, ~~R^6, Q^1 and Q^2~~ R^6 and Q^3 each are as defined below, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the ~~formula (3):~~ formula:

~~HO—Ar^1—Ar^2—Ar^3—OH (3)~~



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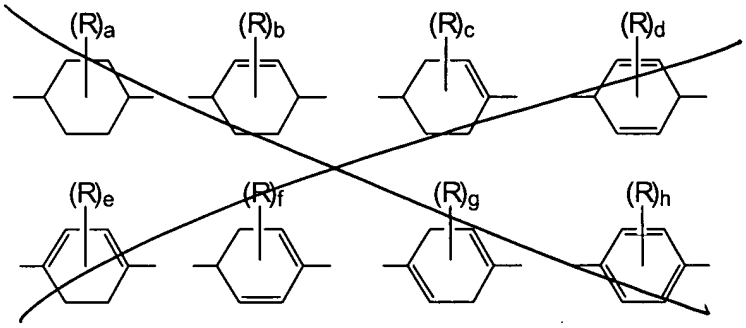
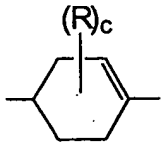
wherein ~~Ar^1, Ar^2 and Ar^3 are the same or different and each~~ Ar^4 denotes ~~any one of~~ a divalent ~~groups~~ group represented by the following ~~formulas:~~ formula:





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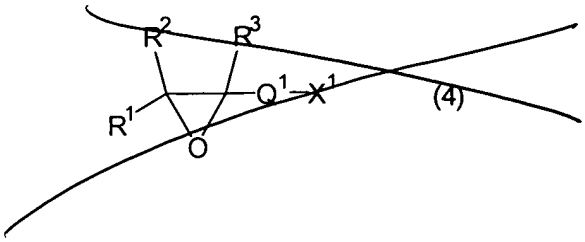
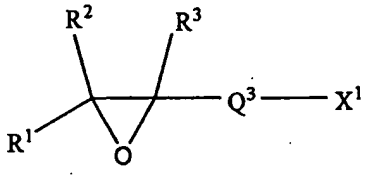
in which R denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, ~~a denotes an integer of 1 to 8, b, e and g denote an integer of 1 to 6,~~ c denotes an integer of 1 to 7, ~~d and h denote~~ h denotes an integer of 1 to 4, and ~~f denotes an integer of 1 to 5, and~~ when more than one R exists in said divalent group, all of R may be the same group or different groups; a compound represented by the ~~formula (4):~~ formula:

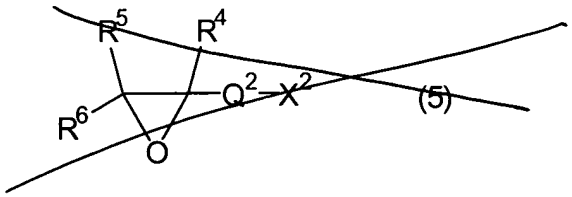


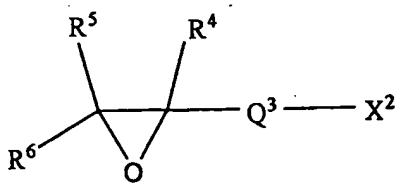


wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, ~~Q^1 denotes a straight-chain alkylene group of 1 to 9 carbon atoms, in which methylene groups composing the straight-chain alkylene group are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms and -O- or -N(R^7)- is optionally inserted between the methylene groups, in which R^7 denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and~~ X^1 denotes a halogen ~~atom; and~~ atom, and Q^3 denotes any one of groups represented by the following formulas:

$-(CH_2)_m-$ $-(CH_2)_p-O-(CH_2)_q-$

in which m denotes an integer of 1 to 9, p and q denote an integer of 1 to 8, and the sum of p and q is 9 or less, and methylene groups composing the group represented by Q^3 are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and a compound represented by the following ~~formula (5):~~ formula:





wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, ~~Q^2 denotes a straight-chain alkylene group of 1 to 9 carbon atoms, in which methylene groups composing the straight-chain alkylene group are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms and -O- or -N(R^7)- is optionally inserted between the methylene groups, in which R^7 denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms~~ Q^3 is as defined above, and X^2 denotes a halogen atom, in the presence of a base.

5. (Currently amended) An epoxy composition comprising the epoxy compound according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1 and a curing agent.

6. (Currently amended) The epoxy composition according to ~~Claim~~ claim 5, wherein the curing agent is 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane, 4,4'-diaminodiphenylethane, 1,5-diaminonaphthalene or p-phenylenediamine.

7. (Currently amended) A cured epoxy resin obtained by curing the epoxy composition according to ~~Claim~~ claim 5.

8. (Currently amended) A prepreg obtained by applying or impregnating the epoxy composition according to ~~Claim~~ claim 5 to or into a base material, followed by semi-curing.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) An epoxy composition comprising the epoxy compound according to ~~Claim~~ claim 3 and a curing agent.

11. (Currently amended) A cured epoxy resin obtained by curing the epoxy composition according to ~~Claim~~ claim 6.

12. (Currently amended) A prepreg obtained by applying or impregnating the epoxy composition according to ~~Claim~~ claim 6 to or into a base material, followed by semi-curing.